

July 1995

The

ACE



NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kirk Baxter; P.O.Box 11201; Shawnee Mission, KS 66207

The President's Page

by Kirk Baxter

Welcome to the July issue of the ACE. It seems like just a couple of weeks ago that the June issue was going out the door, and in fact it was just 10 days ago. I understand all of you who thought that your June issue was "lost in the mail" due to its schedule. However, if you haven't gotten the June issue at this time, drop me a letter, and I'll have a replacement copy in the mail to you.

I'd like to remind everyone that if YOU are interested in participating in the writing or publishing aspects of the ACE, drop me a letter. We are always interested in hearing from people that are wanting to participate in the club. The viability of any hobby club depends on an active membership; don't wait on the "other guy" to do the job, drop HQ a letter with some ideas on what you'd like to write.

As promised last month, I have an introduction to make concerning our new ACE publisher. Yolanda Lewis and Scott Gentry of Chicago will be taking over the publishing of the ACE as of the August issue. I know that the whole club is wishing her and Scott the best of luck with this new job. This change will not affect the address that you need to use for contacting club Headquarters Subscriptions, renewals, samples and club information should still be addressed to our main post office box, POB 11201, Shawnee Mission, Kansas. Again, the club thanks, and I personally thank Rob Keeney for his work over the many years as Publisher of the ACE. You did a great job!

Now, let me pass the baton over to Yolanda for a few words:

It is a great pleasure and an honor to be writing this introduction as the new publishers of The ACE. Starting with the August issue, The ACE will be printed in the Chicago area by two radio listening friends (and club members), Yolanda Lewis and Scott Gentry. We would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to Rob Keeney and Kirk Baxter for their ongoing support and dedication to the club and its members. While we realize that we have some really big shoes to fill, we hope that the team publishing effort will work out to the clubs' advantage.

For those of you who may not know us, here's a short intro. Yolanda is 32 years old, married (to an almost converted DXer), and has a pet parrot. She is a project leader for a "major corporation." Scott is a 34 year old, single, cat owner. He is a soon-to-be graphic arts student. Between them they have almost 40 years of radio listening / DXing/ QSL-chasing experience. Contrary to a popular rumor, they are not Kristin Kaye and Christopher King! Hi!

We will welcome any contribution to The ACE via the Shawnee Mission address; however, they will get here sooner if you send them to: Yolanda Lewis, 87 Highbury Dr., Elgin, Illinois, 60120. Or, if you prefer, a message on the ANARC BBS or E-MAIL at ACEPUB@AOL.COM will also reach us. Any contributions, ideas, recent QSLs for cover artwork, new column submissions, articles, cartoons and clippings are always welcome.

Thank you for your patience and on-going support of our club during this transition period, and next month we hope to hear from YOU!

Wishing you a happy 4th of July and the very best of DX,

Yolanda Lewis and Scott Gentry

DIALOGS

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18						

Nick Grace C.

2116 Florida Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20008-1925

E-mail: gringo@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu

BBS's: (913) 345 - 1978 / (417) 624-1809



The Dialogs calendar is published to note the dates of the week as well as pertinent holidays (the underlined numbers above). When a station makes a weekday broadcast, for instance, you don't have to deal with your datebook or wall calendar to figure out exactly which day it occurred on. This becomes useful when there's a definite pattern, as with some clandestine stations. Of course, free radio stations tend to be erratic and rarely follow visible "schedules." The calendar is important to note since I use it to edit logs for this column. Otherwise, the following pages would be filled with 3 to 5 month old transmissions mixed in with the timelier info. Please be sure to keep your logs within around the 20th of last month and the 20th of this one.

INTERNATIONAL - DX

RADIO PIRAÑA - Blue Ridge Summit, PA or Wuppertal, Germany

Jun 4 - 1900-2106+ - 13950.04 - LSB - Anncr Jorge w/ pop mx & Euro rx. Mailbag & talk abt Mike Goetsch. Anncd as Test. (Zeller, OH 151) (Gentry, IL) (Lewis, IL) (Arthur, NY 252 Vyweak) (Coatsworth, ON 222) (Lobdell, MA 131 Weak sig) (Filipkowski, RI 343/222) (Pearce, VT 322) (Grace, DC 131 Deep Fades)

NORTH AMERICA - SHORTWAVE

CRSM - Merlin, ON & Blue Ridge Summit, PA

May 27 - *2229-2311* - 7375.5 - AM - Rob Roy w/ anncd Final Pgm. Scottish mx & interview w/ om abt Scottish Parliament & pol. freedom. ID'd as "Radio Scottish Montreal." (Filipkowski, RI 444)

May 27 - *2315-2319+ - 7375.5 - AM - Bagpipe IS & ID "The Voice of Free Scotland on SW." (Filipkowski, RI 444)

Jun 4 - 1908-1945+ - 7375.5 - AM - Rpt of Final pgm. (Filipkowski, RI 444)

DOWN EAST RADIO - Wellsville, NY

May 30 - 0059-0117* - 6954.8 - USB - Old stand up comedy abt Maine farmers w/ live audience de Abbott Costello era. S/off: "Don't forget to take a vacation Down East this Summer. You'll be glad you did. So long folks." Picture postcard QSL offered. (Carroll, TN 222) (Filipkowski, RI 232) (Zeller, OH 353+) (Coatsworth, ON Funny stuff - I laughed until my Bib Overalls fell off) (Rose, VA 222)

June 3 - 2255-2335* - 6954.5 - AM - Stand up comedy & IDs de Oscar Guggins. Drifted down 200 Hz. (Zeller, OH 232 Weak in QRN) (Coatsworth, ON 222) (Pearce, VT 111) (Filipkowski, RI 434) (Myers, VA 222/333 Heavy T-Storm QRN) (Grace, DC 322 Trem T-Storm QRN)

HE MAN RADIO - Blue Ridge Summit

May 28 - 1343-1400* - 6955.04 - USB - Someone xmttd carrier off freq. & He Man modulated on AM! Live pgm w/ test whistles & extemporaneous talk. T-shirt plug & call for QSO at end. (Williams, AL Finally) (Suter, VA 322) (Grace, DC 222 Trx tip de B. Williams)

May 28 - *2243-2246* - 6954.99 - USB - Pres. On & off w/ audio de oldies stn in Cleveland. No ID, however. (Grace, DC 333) (Filipkowski, RI 232 as Unid PSE QSL)

May 30 - *0124-0231* - 6955 - USB - Relayed "local" WMU Majic 105.7, Cleveland's "Top 500 Oldies of All Time." During #s 51-32, He Man sang along & had personal comments b/n & during mx. T-shirt plug. Dedicated pgm to DXers incl Jesse Rose. (Carroll, TN 232) (Rose, VA 222) (Filipkowski, RI 434/333)

JOLLY ROGER RADIO IRELAND - POBox 39; Waterford; Ireland

May 27 - *2300-2334* - 6954.98 - LSB - Country mx w/ om anncr. Much echo on vx. Ads for EDXC '95 & Pirate Connection at s/off. Recorded promo IDs mixed w/ pgm and yf IDs. NAPRS mx promo at end. (Myers, VA 333) (Grace, DC +20/333)

May 28 - 0115-0140* - 6954.92 - LSB - Rpt of pgm. (Filipkowski, RI 232) (Suter, VA 322) (Grace, DC +10/333)

May 28 - 1340-1405+ - 6955 - AM - Rpt of pgm. (Filipkowski, RI 2/322)

Jun 10/11 - 2356-0029* - 6954.45 - AM - Rpt of pgm. (Zeller, OH 151 as unid) (Suter, VA 222 as unid/poss JRR) (Filipkowski, RI 343 as unid) (Rose, VA 211 Trem QRN) (Grace, DC 232)

Jun 18 - 0000-0033* - 6955 - USB - Rpt of pgm. Via NAPRS w/ s/off "Have a good weekend." (Brandt, Germany 242 That's what I had!) (Williams, AL 222) (Hassig, IL 111)

KMOM - Wellsville, NY

May 27 - 2203-2225* - 7375.6 - AM - Samantha Jones w/ hvy reveb. Varied rock mx incl Tom Petty, & Queen, & ment. "R Hairplane." Hard to understand w/ hvy echo effect. (Arthur, NY 443) (Filipkowski, RI 343)

KTAL - Providence, RI

Jun 11 - 2238-2309* - 7414.85 - USB - Pgm of Oldies mx incl The Drifters, Roy Orbison, Dion, Buddy Holly. Old ads for Budweiser, Hawaiian Punch & Meow Mix. Annnced as first bcst. (Filipkowski, RI 444) (Carroll, TN 222 as unid) (Arthur, NY 455 Nice stable SSB w/ clear mod) (Suter, VA 333 as unid)

Jun 18 - 1336-1411 - 7415 - USB - Yf w/ classic oldies format incl songs "Yakety Yak," "Venus," & "The Wanderer." Distorted audio. (Lobdell, MA 233)

NORTH AMERICAN PIRATE RELAY SERVICE - Wellsville, NY

Jun 17 - 2353-2358* - 6955 - USB - Test w/ historical pol. speech abt US relations w/ Poland. (Brandt, Germany 242)

PRIMITIVE RADIO - Wellsville, NY

Jun 12 - 0214-0237* - 6954.6v - AM - Mix of rock mx & slow om/yf vocals. Calm om talked b/n tunes, occ w/ narrative poem. NAPRS relay ID at s/off. Drifted down 300 Hz. (Filipkowski, RI 333) (Zeller, OH 242 QRN)

RADIO DOOMSDAY - Ostra Porten 29; 442 54 Ytterby; Sweden / an260316@anon.penet.fi

Jun 11 - 0104-0156* - 6956.37 - USB - Nemesis w/ funny pgm incl tons of soundbytes de Lyndon Johnson, Eisenhower, Barry Goldwater, Edward R. Murrow, & fast paced / elaborate mix of parody ads & show. Featured the 5 second 'Great Debate' on SSB v AM, a "Texas Cage Death Match" btwn the 350 lb Godfather & 130 lb Nemesis, as well as Rev. Red Slate w/ sermon reminiscent of Rev. Billy Bob Huxley. Ads incl 'The FCC Summer Clearing Sale' w/ hyper anncr & cheap echo, & 'Studio Pirate Stealth Kit.' Slogan "We've Upped Our Standards, Now Up Yours!" (Williams, AL 444) (Suter, VA 322 QRN Rough) (Folk, KY S9/533 Typical Funny Show) (Fleming, MD) (Rose, VA 211) (Zeller, OH 343) (Filipkowski, RI 3/444) (Hassig, IL 222) (Masyga, MN 211) (Grace, DC 333)

RADIO FUSION RADIO - Providence, RI

May 27/28 - *2337-0022* - 6957.34 - AM - Lots of 2 & 3 yr old rap mx de Dr Dre & Snoopy Doggy Dog, but new pgm. Many IDs w/ add by diff anncrs. Annnced "900,000 watts of College R." Ended w/ call de brother in da hood 'dissin whitey. (Coatsworth, ON 423) (Williams, AL) (Folk, KY S8/422 S7 QRN) (Suter, VA 322) (Grace, DC +35/423 QRN)

May 29 - 0117-0203* - 6957.37 - AM - Rpt of pgm. (Arthur, NY 433 Fax QRM) (Suter, VA 322) (Coatsworth, ON 312) (Zeller, ON 353 Mobile b/n Hamilton & St. Catherine's, Ontario) (Masyga, MN 222) (Grace, DC +20/323)

RADIO USA - Wellsville, NY

Jun 12 - *0118-0156* - 6954.7 - AM - Mr. Blue Shy w/ 10th Anniv pgm of punk rock & some parody ads incl 'Joe Bob's Salvage Yard.' Played "Birthdays" by The Beatles & ment color OSLS & infosheet. (Filipkowski, RI 434) (Zeller, OH 242 Poor in QRN) (Rose, VA 222 QRN) (Lobdell, MA 333)

RFM - Blue Ridge Summit, PA

Jul 18 - *0033* - 6955 - USB - "Hello" to NAPRS de H.V. Short & brief signal rpt. (Brandt, Germany 232)

UP AGAINST THE WALL RADIO - Providence, RI

May 28 - *0115-0158* - 6957.26 - USB - S/on & s/off w/ siren & reverbed ID. Rock mx de Moody Blues, Traffic, Zappa, & Balanced Budget Amendment skit. Many IDs and request for pgm comments. (Williams, AL) (Folk, KY S7/433) (Filipkowski, RI 333) (Masyga, MN 222) (Coatsworth, ON 433) (Hassig, IL 222) (Suter, VA 333) (Pearce, VT 222) (Grace, DC +10/434)

WKND - Pittsburgh, PA

May 28 - 2139-2204* - 7445 - AM - Most everything K-9 related. Talk abt Dog Fantasy Magazine & an aircheck de WOLF FM. (Suter, VA 333)

WLIS - Blue Ridge Summit, PA

Jun 4 - 1852 - 7375.3 - AM - Kung Fun fighting IS. Via CSIC. (Coatsworth, ON)

WREC - Wellsville, NY

May 21 - 0202+ - 7416 - USB - Rock & comedy. (Suter, VA 211 QRN was so bad I was fortunate to get ID)

May 28 - *0024-0115* - 6957.25 - USB - Rpt of Second Anniv Celebr. S/off w/ UAWR ID. Drifted up in freq. during show. (Williams, AL) (Coatsworth, ON 333) (Masyga, MN 221) (Folk, KY S8/433 Great to hear WREC for the past 2 yrs!) (Filipkowski, RI 333) (Suter, VA 433) (Pearce, VT 211) (Grace, DC +20/423 QRN)

May 28 - *1257-1350* - 7414 - USB - Pgm #12 w/ mx de AC/DC, Ramones & Alice In Chains. Parody ads for AT&T, & 'Pete McGill's Breakfast Bar.' Relay via RBCN. (Filipkowski, RI 222 QRN) (Suter, VA 222)

UNIDENTIFIED

May 21 - 0131-0154 - 7415.8 - LSB - Rock de Eagles, Foreigner, Queen, etc. Heard some IDs, but cudn't make them out. Poss relay of a Euro. (Suter, VA 322)

May 27 - 0305-0315* - 3881.15 - AM - Relay of American Dissident Voices pgm w/ WRNO annment. Jamming hams. (Grace, DC 322)

May 28 - 0309-0318* - 6954v - AM - Extr weak carrier w/ rock mx barely audible. On & off testing w/ varying VFO. (Grace, DC 121)

May 28 - 0320-0348* - 6240.7 - AM - Poss Euro w/ unid song & om w/ British accent. Some types of tones before s/off. (Coatsworth, ON PSE OSUJ) (Filipkowski, RI 141 Trx tip de Coatsworth! PSE ID/OSUJ)

May 28 - *2118+ - 6955 - USB - Unid rock mx & part of the Culture Club's "Kama Chameleon." (Masyga, MN 111) Poss **He Man R** - NG

May 28 - 2329-2332 - 6955 - USB - Older rock. Sounded like it may have been The Mad Daddy. (Suter, VA) Poss **He Man R** - NG

May 29 - *2110-2112* - 6955.04 - USB - Whistles into rock mx. Poss He Man R. (Grace, DC 222)

Jun 4 - 0034-0056 - 6960 - LSB? - Laughing sfx, poss tones & talk, but cudn't tune the SSB vx. (Myers, VA 333 Heavt T-storm QRN PSE OSUJ)

Jun 4 - 0339-0342* - 6954.5 - USB - Om w/ electronically altered vx. Very poor recept. (Coatsworth, ON 111 PSE OSUJ)

Jun 11 - 0045 - 6955 - USB - Unid vx & mx. (Williams, AL)

Jun 11 - 0350-0405* - 6957 - USB - Vx & mx incl horns de either vaudeville or an old time cartoon. (Williams, AL)

Jun 11 - 0320-0405* - 6960.6 - USB - Mx incl "Wind Beneath My Wings" & A Janet Jackson tune. (Coatsworth, ON 212 Sounded like a Euro, but I don't think so) (Rose, VA 111) Possibly the same log as above? NG

Jun 17 - 0112-0122+ - 6955 - USB - Church-type mx on caliope. Hrd no IDs. (Pearce, VT 111)

Jun 17 - 2333+ - 7465 - AM - R Sweden IS. (Brandt, Germany 131) Poss **WLIS** - NG

Jun 18 - *0106-0132* - 6955 - USB - Four classical mx pieces w/ small orch, most featuring flutes & piano. No announcements. (Zeller, OH 252 Weak but consistently audible) (Hassig, IL 122 PSE OSUJ) (Rausch, NJ 333 PSE OSUJ) Ed Rausch suggests that this could be a test bcst of **The Free Radio Experience**.

LATE LOGS

The following logs were received just one day after last month's deadline.

HE MAN RADIO: Apr 23 - 0019 - 6955 - USB (Pearce, VT 434)
KDED: Apr 29 - 0044 - 6954.8 - USB (Arthur, NY 343)
KIWI: *Direct* Mar 25 - 0630-0741+ - 7445 - USB (Animal, PA 131+)
 NAm Relay Apr 30 - 0112 - 6957 - USB (Pearce, VT 222)
KOOK: Apr 24 - 0120-0134* - 6956 - USB (Animal, PA 232)
NAPRS: Apr 22/23 - 2210/2310/0000 - 6955 - LSB (Pearce, VT 555)
OMEGA RADIO: May 14 - 0113 - 6955 - AM (Pearce, VT 222)
OUTLAW RADIO: Apr 29 - 2315 - 6955 - USB (Pearce, VT 222 PSE QSL)
RADIO AZTECA: Apr 29 - *2138-2217* - 6955 - AM (Animal, PA 322) (Pearce, VT 444)
RADIO MARABU: Apr 29 - 2133-2138* - 6957 - AM (Animal, PA 322)
VOX AMERICA: Apr 29 - 1938-2002* - 7398 - AM (Animal, PA 222)
 Apr 29 - 2220-2250* - 7405 - AM (Animal, PA 322)
 Apr 30 - *0031-0105* - 6957 - AM (Animal, PA 333)
WLIS: Apr 23 - 2305-2324* - 6956 - AM (Pearce, VT 111/212)
WREC: Apr 29/30 - *2335-0030* - 6957 - AM (Animal, PA 333) (Pearce, VT 222)

NEWS / SHORTLY NOTED

Monte Carroll provides a good viewpoint on the **Retransmission of FM** strns by pirates. During the He Man R WMI relays, he writes "I kept looking at my clock & wondered 'HOW LONG will this go on?' I hope all his shows are not this lackluster. If I wanted to hear oldies, I'd listen to a local strn... If I want to hear commercial radio, I wouldn't be tuning around for pirates."

One of the easier clandestines to hear and QSL is the **Voice of Human Rights and Freedom in Iran**. It's schedule is as follows. 0230-0423 UTC: 9270v, 9380v, 11470 (alt. 9482) kHz. 0600-0635: 9270v, 15150 kHz. 1545-1623: 9255v, 15147 kHz. 1630-1823: 9270v, 9380v, 11470 kHz. (Jihad DX via Williams & Fleming) Address: 18 Bis, Rue Violet; 75015 Paris; France. (Fine Tuning) This station has ties to Sazeman Derafsh Kaviani (Flag of Freedom), a group that advocates a parliamentary democracy for Iran and is opposed to the "Islamic Republic phenomenon." (Direct)

DiaLogs isn't the place for a discussion of **Number Stations**, but I fell out of my chair when tuning in the one on 6953 kHz (May 27 0200 UTC)... The signal was so loud I almost turned off the radio to see if I could hear it in the street! There has been some talk of whether some transmissions come from the CIA compound in Warrenton, Virginia (40 minutes outside of DC), but I believe this was from *inside* Washington. The station was literally overloading my receiver, blowing WWCR out of the water in terms of signal strength. It could have possibly originated from an embassy (most have mouthwatering quads stacked on the roofs) or the Pentagon. On the other hand, Ullis Fleming tells me that these stations also pound in up in Baltimore, so maybe it's actually secret messages being passed between the Philly NASWA group???

The only solid transmitting path that is open during the Summertime is north-south. On the other hand, if the **A and K indices** drop low enough, the bands can become quiet enough to permit Trans-Atlantic reception. The Jun 17 weekend is a good example of this since German DXer Rainer Brandt caught NAPRS & RFM fairly well. The K index is a bi-hourly reading of the geomagnetic conditions and the A index is a smoothed average of the previous day's numbers. WWW updates the Flux & A-index at 2118 UTC everyday so the conditions for a log on Jun 4 at 0100 would correspond to the propagation numbers for Jun 3 below.

PROPAGATION

Date	Flux	A	K	Date	Flux	A	K	Date	Flux	A	K
May 27	66	07	2	May 28	67	07	2	May 29	67	06	2
Jun 03	75	14	3	Jun 04	79	05	2	Jun 10	84	07	1
Jun 11	83	08	2	Jun 17	70	06	1	Jun 18	73	06	2

The monitoring period began with poor conditions, as predicted, thanks to a recurring coronal hole. But the effects hit harder since we also experienced extremely low solar activity (5 consecutive days of zero sunspots). The flux increased by mid month, which raised the Maximum Usable Frequency enough so that activity on Jun 11 and 12 extended beyond 0100. We passed the Summer Equinox on Jun 21, meaning that this is the period where the seasonal D-layer absorption is highest. The 27-day forecast for July 4th is good, however, because there should be an increase in the solar flux. Many thanks to Ullis Fleming for valuable propagation info, and to all of our contributors. Best DX from Washington!

Deadline for the August Dialogs: July 20, 1995.

PLEASE QSL ADDRESSES

Jerry Coatsworth; R.R. # 3 Merlin; ON NOP 1W0; Canada
 Joe Filipkowski; 28 Mill Wheel Rd; Warwick, RI 02886
 William Hassig; 102 North Russel St; Mt. Prospect, IL 60056-2443
 Greg Myers; POBox 17186; Richmond, VA 23226
 Dick Pearce; POBox 8162; Brattleboro, VT 05304-8162
 Ed Rausch; 17 Vanderberg Pl; Cedar Grove, NJ 07009-1039

EURO REPORT

Rainer Brandt; Wiesenweg 6; D-29361 Hoefer; Germany

Dear US friends abroad,
 I caught several US signals this weekend again after a long time and I trust you may help me identifying the unids on 6955 and 7465 as soon as possible? I would write a report if possible....
 Conditions were nice here, the only thing was the local time 02.00 here, zzzzzz
 Thanks for your help and please inform the guys behind if you know them!
 More of these logs you may read in next issue of SRS news!! Try it!!
 73, Rainer

LOGLIST

FREQ.	STATION	HOURS / UTC	PROGRAMME/INFO	SINPO
June 17th, 1995 (Saturday)				
1645	R.807	22.28-22.48	E,D, PB 341, Barneveld	34343
1650	unid	22.46-22.50*	rock music	23232
3910	R.Ridiculous (=R.RID)	23.23-23.38*	E, QSO to Pacman	44444
3912	R.Pacman	23.20-	E,D, QSO	33433
3913	R.Lookout	23.08-	D,E, QSO	23222
3925	R.Amazonia	22.16-	G,E, via Mariquita	22322
3932	unid	23.50-	music, under carrier	21321
3945	unid	23.41-23.43*	music, s/off	44333
6941	ABC Dublin International	22.56-	E, pop oldies, low mode	34333
6955U	unid, US station!	23.53-23.58*	E, political talk	23322
			speech of a politician?	
7125	Party R.	11.05-	G, pops, via IRRS	44444
7125	R.Marabu	12.01-14.00	E, via IRRS	44444
7300U	R.Europe	09.55-	Sp, DX infos	32322
7465	unid, pirate?	23.33-	R.Sweden IS(!) fade out	13211
June 18th, 1995 (Sunday)				
1636	R.Mario	00.45-	E, address, pops	33433
3900	R.Moonlight	17.06-17.13	E,D, QSO, techno	34433
3900	Joint venture of	17.13-17.20	D,E, QSO, pops	44444
	R.Meteor, IMR + ?		from Dutch QTH	
3900	unid	17.35-	non stop rock music	44444
3910	Reflections Europe	16.00-	E, //12255 //6295	22222
3916	R.Pacman	18.38-18.55*	E, CQ, many RNI jingles	44444
3925	R.Mariquita	00.18-	E, IDs, non stop music	33333
3940	R.R.P.A.	18.06-18.45	E, IDs, address	34433
3945	unid	18.55-	often carrier tests	44444
6210	Ozone R.International	10.47-	E, pops	34433
6234	unid	10.52-11.05*	Paul Hardcastle music	34433
6240	Weekend Music R.	11.23-	E, IDs, Stone Row QRA	32332
6260	Welle Wahnsinn / CWR	08.15-08.59*	G,E, DX tips, pops	44444

Veried Response

Your Center for QSL Information and Comment

John T. Arthur; RD#1, Box 15A; Belfast, NY 14711
(716) 365 - 8870 ☐ Not Collect ☐

with help from the VR Troopers and other Friends. VR is electronically transmitted to A*C*E Hdq on or before the 21st of each month. Please send your input and comments to the above address or leave them in the [V]eried Response section of the ANARC BBS prior to the 15th. Your active participation in the form of input, reports, suggestions, or constructive criticism is solicited and welcomed.

Unless otherwise attributed, OPINIONS expressed in Veried Response are those of this clown and hopefully do not represent the attitudes or opinions of any sane person.

"A popular government, without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or, perhaps both.

-- James Madison

What's News:
the media report

The "What's He Up To Now?" Department:
Want To Buy: 50kW AM xmtr. A Weiner, 207-985-7547.
[Radio World, 14 June 1995]

Support your Club; say you read it in The A*C*E

I know it's hard to believe, being July and all that, but winter will soon be upon us, and with it the DX season. NOW is the time to fix things up a bit and maybe erect that new antenna you've been planning since late last Fall. After all, once the snow starts flying you won't be able to get up the trees or onto the roof safely.

So, what's first? Here are a few suggestions, made with tongue firmly in cheek:

1. Pull up your ground rod and polish it up. A rusty Ground rod exhibits higher resistance than a clean one, and you want the lowest resistance possible at that point for safety. You might even invest in the latest technology - a chrome reversed Ground rod.
2. Take down your longwire or dipole and dust the cobwebs off it. A little Brasso will make it mighty attractive to those weak signals you want to hear.
3. Lengthen all lead-ins and guy wires to prevent short circuits. 4. Since electronic equipment draws less current at higher voltage, plug your Icom or NRD in to 220 VAC. Think of the money you'll save on your power bills.
5. Finally, as winter draws closer you might want to send the wife and little ones off to her Mother's with a one-way ticket so they won't be interrupting you just as Nibi-Nibi starts to identify. A little maintenance at the right time always helps increase the enjoyment of this great radio hobby of ours. Good DX..!

THE A*C*E SWAP SHOP

John T. Arthur; RD#1, Box 15A; Belfast, NY 14711

Please be concise but complete: If you are looking for an item, clearly describe what you need; If you're selling something, give the make, model number, condition and asking price. Be sure to notify the editor if you find what you're looking for or sell what you're offering so these ads will be kept up-to-date.

WANTED:

Literature on transistor radios from the 1954-1970 era: sales brochures, manuals, catalogs, flyers and magazine ads. Anything relating to transistor radios with, or without, photos. Even interested in kits (e.g.: Heath, Eico, Knight, etc). Certain magazines of that era (Nat'l Geographic, Popular Electronics, etc) had lots of transistor ads. Don't need entire mags, just the ads. Also looking for older pocket-size transistor radios, store displays, pamphlets and other promo items. Pls write to let me know what you have: Robert Ross, Box 1003 Stn B, London, ONT N6A 5K1, Canada. Or call (519) 685-1167.

Manual (or photocopy thereof) for Electro-Voice EVT5212 stereo 12-channel mixer. Contact: J. Bebop Brown via Box 452.

Communications receiver, prefer 51J4 or Kenwood R1000. Must be in good working condx. Contact: Joe Talbot, 5341 42nd A Ave, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 3A6, Canada, or call (403) 342-6289.

FOR SALE:

Various FT243 crystals, used in most older amateur xmtrs; \$10 each. Contact jta with your wants.

Kenwood R5000 communications rcvr with 6 kHz AM filter, 1.8 kHz SSB filter & DC power kit; 4 yrs old, never smoked: \$600/obo, + shipping. Contact: Jim @ (501) 665-2712.

"The Uniden Cookbook" \$20; "Uniden Updates" (supplement) \$12; both cover HR2510, HR2600, HR2830, Lincoln and RS HTX100. "The RCI Handbook" covers RCI2900, RCI2950, Sommerkamp 789 and Galaxy Uranus Mk2, \$20. "The Ranger Cookbook", covering AR3300 and AR3500, \$15. All books cover simple mods and upgrades using standard parts, and contain easy to read text and instructions. Inquiries require a SASE; technical questions require a SASE and a loose first-class stamp. Contact: Bud Stacey, POB 907, Satsuma, AL 36572.

Heath HW101 xcvr, looks good and works well. FCC certified 90 watts in sideband: \$175, including shipping. Contact jta for details.

Kenwood TS-830S with MC-50 desk mic and manual; 500 kHz coverage of all ham bands 160-10, incl. WARC '79 bands: \$450 (+shipping). Contact jta for details.

Listening to pirates is fun all by itself, and verifying them can be fun, too. But then what - put the QSLs in an album and stick it on a shelf somewhere? There is another step you can take, if you wish to, and it is almost as rewarding as getting the cards and letters in the first place. Award certificates are available from several different sources, not the least of which is your very own ACE. ACE Awards are available for MW and FM QSLs, SW QSLs, and countries verified, and we offer the only Clandestine Award available anywhere. With KIWI making Oceana available we're considering adding a new Award for pirate continents, but Africa and Asia would be a major problem for most of us! ACE Award certificates are available for a list of your QSLs, along with US\$1 and one mint stamp, from: Awards, PO Box 1, Belfast, NY 14711. Send three stamps if you want your Award sent in a large envelope, unfolded.

Then there's the NAPRS DX Award, issued by long-dead Richard T. Pistek for verifying a minimum of five programs relayed by NAPRS. This beautiful certificate, a welcome addition to any shack, is available for a list of your QSLs, US\$1 and one mint stamp, from: NAPRS Award, PO Box 452, Wellsville, NY 14895.

Finally, there is a complete Award program, including the Pirate DXer certificate, from the North

Finally, there is a complete Award program, including the Pirate DXer certificate, from the North American SW Association. For the Pirate DXer, you must have QSLs from at least 10 different SW "unlicensed hobby pirate broadcast stations" (their terms). Endorsement stickers are available in steps of 25 thereafter. This Award may be obtained by sending a list of your pirate QSLs, including station name or call sign, frequency, date, and type of QSL rcvd, along with US\$2 in NAm (US\$3 elsewhere) to: NASWA Awards, Dr Harold Cones, 2 Whits Ct, Newport News, VA 23606. A complete listing of the NASWA Awards Program is available from the same address for US\$1.

"The right to be heard does not include the right to be taken seriously."

--Hubert Humphrey

THE RUMOR CENTER

ADD to Box 28413: KTLA, Vot Rock...

Dr Lobotomy passes along word that JAN Crystals can provide a lower-cost alternative to the traditional FT243 crystals most ham rigs used to use. The HC17 will fit in the same sockets and do the same job - and it only costs \$13, compared to the \$25 they now charge for the old FT243s. JAN only works four days a week, so expect your order to take 3 to 4 weeks. You can call'em at 1-800 JAN XTAL for more info or to place your order. Thanx..!

From the 'droperator of the extinct Still River Box recently came a note - and a QSL for a *very* old report! He said, in part, "before having a chance to ... build a solid reputation, (Box 116) became a stomping ground for a number of irresponsible Ops. ... it is highly doubtful whether the stations ever planned on confirming reports. I have contacted all the station Ops and received consent to arrange for QSLs to be printed and mailed. Each QSL has been cross checked with old ACE and PiPa logs for accuracy and authenticity because none of the original reports were saved. A good lesson to learn from the Still River Disaster is that the QSL policy of a station doesn't rest on the shoulders of the 'droperator - most of the time. Not only does he forward mail to the Ops, but he can and should actively encourage them to verify." And with that note came a QSL for Radio Transylvania for a log back in February of 1991! Gee, thanks; I had definitely given up on that one! Other stations involved include: Old Fart R, R Freddy's Nightmare, R Music, R Nerd, R Vintage, Vo Hell and WLAR. Follow up reports can be sent to: PO Box 15, Still River, MA 01467...

A recent fonecon with an Op raised a question: who's most important, the Operator(s) or the listener(s)? He said the Operators were most important, claiming that without a pirate to listen to the listeners would take up knitting. I disagree (did I really need to say that?). To my way of thinking, the listeners are by far most important; if you don't have listeners, will you bother to broadcast? And if so, to whom? This IS, after all, a radio listening hobby. If a listener doesn't hear a pirate, they'll tune in something else, perhaps Glenn Hauser's World of Radio, or they'll look for some other DX; they won't just throw their radios away. Without the listeners, to whom are you broadcasting, yourself? You might as well play records in your living room and save your breath - AND your "\$10K". To quote a former head of Vatican Radio, "A broadcast without an audience is an exercise in futility." And he should know...

"A straw vote only shows which way the hot air is blowing." --O. Henry

Mouthpiece Theater

A*C*E Members Speak Out

This month we are blessed with a paw-printed note from Radio Aminal:

"Hey, liked your comments on "enablement/empowerment" in the (May) ACE! Good dog! If anyone should know about the personal responsibility that individuals have in that area, it would be Free Radio people - both broadcasters and listeners. Most in the scene know that the FCC would never change the Rules by itself, but maybe they're lazy or don't want to take the risk. Free Radio folks should know not to sit around and wait to be "empowered" by big corporations like the networks or the FCC - they don't know or won't acknowledge that Free Radio exists." s/Animal

And this note from Chris Lobdell:

"I've been reading with interest the discussion of the pros and cons of the 43 meterband in the April and May ACEs. I think 43m has already caught on. A review of May DiaLogs shows a majority of stns are already using it. As you know, I've been the 'fill-in' editor for Pirate Pages during April and May, and I've seen most of the activity on 43m.

"As a Dxer, I really don't care where pirates operate, as long as I can hear them. I use a NRD525, and while tuning a recent broadcast from WREC on 6957 I found I could use my rig's widest bandwidth and take advantage of PJ's excellent AM audio! I dare say that I tried that on 7415 kHz, I'd have lost WREC to WEWN altogether! My NRD has narrow filters of course, plus a notch and passband tuning, but even I had trouble with Vox America up on 7414 from all the WEWN QRM. "Where am I going? I think both 43 and 41 meters are useful, but unless the powerhouses leave the 7375 to 7500 kHz range, 43m has a definite place in pirating today." s/Chris

You express a good point well, but I remain unconvinced that it is in any way 'smart' to expose yourself too much. Operators must remember that what they are doing is ILLEGAL and subject to prosecution, thus sticking out like a sore thumb is not particularly beneficial to longevity. And you seem to say that the only "pirate frequency" in 41m is 7415 kHz, which is simply not true. There are a myriad of frequencies available for pirate use, both within 41m and elsewhere. What I have tried to do in this column is make Operators *think* about what they are doing; it is unfortunate that some of them either choose not to think or don't know how. Thanks for your input. Feel free to write again anytime. jta

What do YOU think? Mouthpiece Theater is a forum for Your opinion and comment. Kindly organize Your thoughts, be concise, and expect comment directed at Yours. I may edit to fit space available but will try not to alter Your intended meaning.

"There has never been a good government."

--Emma Goldman

Under the Door

THE QSL REPORT

Chris Lobdell benefited from the trickle-down theory with a full data sheet from Radio Dr Tim (via KIWI) with infosheet and personal letter in six weeks, a full data yellow "Donald Duck" card from Starshine Radio (via KIWI) signed by Kim Hawk in one month via the Wuppertal Box, a full data

"memorex" card from KICK signed by Pete Moss in four months, a full data green "primitive art" card from Primitive Radio signed by Holden Caulfield in two months, a full data "clown with balloons" sheet from Radio Fusion Radio signed by Homey the Clown in four months, and a personal two-page Spanish letter from Radio Ilucan-Cuterve in one month.
(is this a "pirate"? jta)

Joe Filipkowski woke up from a bad dream to find a full data "clown with balloons" paper card (#25) from Radio Fusion Radio signed by Homey the Clown in about three months, a full data "rock of the South Pacific" card and stickers from KIWI (NAM relay) signed by Graham Barclay in one month, a date and frequency only toilet-paper tube (#10) from WPMS signed by She Woman in six months, a full data "fur sample" card (#154) from WKND signed by Radio Animal in 68 days, a full data paper card (#4) from KXXX signed by Rev X and Major Spook in about one month for a log in PiPa, a date and frequency only color poster (#180) from RBCN signed by Radio Bob in two weeks, a full data "special low-power DX test" card (#229) from NAPRS signed by RTP who sed 12 watts and did it in 16 days, and a full data photo card with infoshet and personal letter from Radio Perfekt (via NAPRS) signed by Mr Charly in six months.

Ed Rausch slapped himself silly over a full data "clown w/ balloons" paper card (#18) from Radio Fusion Radio signed by Homey the Clown in two months, a full data toilet paper roll (#5) from WPMS signed by She Woman in five months, a full data "dog at xmtr" sheet (#155) from WKND signed by Radio Animal in two months, a full data "xmtr in closet" clard from WTPW signed by Sal Manilla in one month, and a full data "xmtr on spkr" card (#54) from KICK signed by Pete Moss in four months.

Ray Pfaff died laughing upon receipt of a card from Radio Lollipop in six months, a sheet from East Coast Music Radio in four weeks, and a full data sheet with sticker, mini comic book and PiPa from WREC in six weeks.

George Zeller tore himself away from the riveting coverage of the OJ trial long enough to report a full data card (#219) from NAPRS signed by Dick Pistek in 25 days, a full data red "baby at mic" card from Radio Lollipop signed by Boy Lollipop in 157 days, and a full data "photo of xmtr" card from Radio Perfekt (via NAPRS) signed by Mr Charly in 157 days.

Ye Olde Columniste was pickled tink to get a full data paper card from Radio Transylvania in over four years (a new record!), a full data "spam radio?" sheet (#633) from WLIS initialed CP in just under six months for a relay via Doomsday (they are good for something after all!), and full data "clown with balloons" paper card (#29) from Radio Fusion Radio signed by Homey the Clown in 18 days (great service!).

continued from page 7

6260	R. Coroner	09.00-09.05*	E, CQ to CWR	23322
		09.16-	E, asked to QSY	23222
6260	unid, French too?	09.05-	E, after Coroner	12321
6260	R. UNID International	10.12+11.17	G, address, pops, QSO	44444
6262	R. Benelux	09.13+09.20	G, CQ, talk	23222
		11.21-	G, QSO chat	33333
6270L	Greenvox	11.08-11.09*	E, report to Coroner	44444
6270	R. Coroner	11.05-11.08*	E, QSO	24322
		11.13-	E, QSO to CWR	32322
6271	Welle Wahnsinn / CWR	11.03-11.05*	G, E, CQ, QSO	44433
6275	R. UNID International	09.22+11.13	G, pops	44444
6290	unid, Dutch?	11.20-	polka music	23222
6295	Reflections Europe	16.00-	E, //12265 //3910	33433
6306	La Voz del CID	06.50-	Sp, politics	22322
6306	unid	13.45-	E, music	22211
6955U	Jolly Roger R., Ireland via US relay!!	00.00-00.30*	E, relay via N.A.P.R.S.	24432
6955U	North American Pirate Relay Service (NAPRS)!!	00.31-00.33*	Waterford address given	
			E, IDs, Wellsville drop	24432
6955U	unid, US station!	00.33*	E, "Hello" + brief call	14321
6955U	unid, US station!	00.39-00.40*	E, "testing 12345-4321"	24432
7300U	R. Europe	08.41-	Sp, DX bulletin	43333
12255	Reflections Europe	16.00-	E, //3910 // 6295	23322

Clandestine Profile

George Zeller; 3492 West 123rd St; Cleveland, OH 44111

Your loggings, information, and speculation about clandestine radio stations are always welcome for this column. You can send them direct to 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111. You can call (216) 941-3366 anytime, or else (216) 696-9077 between 1200-2045 UTC weekdays. You can leave information for George Zeller on the ACE BBS at (913) 345-1978. You can use the internet at ew088@cleveland.freenet.edu. Or, you can yell the information very loudly out the window if your voice will carry to Cleveland.

RIGHT WING QUASI-CLANDESTINE PROGRAMMING SHIFTS

Last month we had considerable coverage of the various far right wing quasi-clandestines that suddenly faced considerable scrutiny in the wake of the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building. We asked for input on the schedules of various programs buying time on licensed USA shortwave broadcasters. ACE member Alan Masyga of Minnesota was up to the challenge, and he sends in results from quite a bit of off-air monitoring.

Alan heard Kevin Strom's National Alliance neo-fascist American Dissident Voices show over WRNO on May 6 and 7, but he noticed that it was missing from the WRNO schedule during the remainder of May. However, it returned to the air on June 10. Alan says that the program is scheduled at "11:30 and 8 PM," without specifying the time zone. I believe that these times that Alan sent in are not UTC, so if Alan could clarify this, it would be helpful. I assume that these are Central Daylight times, meaning that 1630 and 0000 UTC are the times to look. Alan noted that Ernest Zündel's program has also been missing from the WRNO lineup, even in June. Anita McCormack of West Virginia heard a caller on a WWCR program who claimed that WRNO had dropped its "Saturday night lineup of white supremacy shows." But, perhaps this was a temporary programming move.

Alan notes that several of the quasi-clandestine shows have been buying time on WINB in Red Lion, Pennsylvania. But, Alan checked in vain for this one on 11790 kHz and its other frequencies. The whole station disappeared, not just its semi-clandestines. There is an explanation. According to a Glenn Hauser *World of Radio* report cited by BBCMS via *Monitoring Times*, the station had an internal dispute about a proposed contract with "Main Street Media" to load up the WINB schedule with "patriot" programming. The WINB engineers apparently refused to maintain the transmitters if they were to be used by Main Street Media. Hauser cited articles in the *York Dispatch* and *Baltimore Sun* that attributed the situation to a dispute between station owner John H. Norris and a manager at the station. Norris apparently won the fight, since the manager lost his employment. It may be that WINB will not become a full-fledged "patriot" station, but the situation bears watching.

RELATED NEWS

ACE member Ullis Fleming of Maryland sends in a copy of an article on RFPI's "Far Right Radio Review" host that was printed in the April 28 issue of *The Tico Times* of San José, Costa Rica. The paper bills itself as "Central America's Leading English Language Newspaper." Station Manager James Latham produces the show after recording and analyzing programs from WRNO, WWCR, WHRI, and WINB. The RFPI show is scheduled at 1800 UTC Tuesdays and 2200 UTC Sundays on 6200 kHz, 0200 UTC Wednesdays and 1800 UTC Sundays on 7385 kHz, 1800 UTC Tuesdays and 2200 UTC Sundays on 15050 kHz, and 1800 UTC Tuesdays, 0200 UTC Wednesdays, 2200 UTC Sundays, and 0600 UTC Mondays on 9400 kHz. Latham was suddenly interviewed by many reporters from major USA press organizations following the Oklahoma City incident. The newspaper article lists Zündel's show as scheduled at 0730 UTC Sundays on WRNO's 7355 kHz frequency.

Gigi Lytle of Texas sends in an article from the *Dallas Morning News* with a large drawing of many buildings in downtown Oklahoma City. This newspaper reminds us that damage from the bombing was not limited only to the federal building. Quite a large number of adjacent buildings also suffered extensive damage. The same newspaper contained an analysis of the political situation in Kerr

County, Texas (west of Austin). Local "patriot" citizens have been organizing recall votes against county elected officials and other tactics designed as "constitutionalist" maneuvers. Assistant County Attorney Ilse Bailey complained, "We were being inundated with lawsuits in an organized effort to cripple the government." Local officials have been accusing their opponents of an alliance with the "patriot" movement.

FCC REALLY CLOSING MONITORING STATIONS

Longtime ACE member Don Bishop of Kansas forwards a copy of an article in the May 1995 issue of *Broadcast Engineering* about plans at the FCC to close ten of the thirteen current manned High Frequency monitoring stations in the USA. The FCC is not going to cease its direction finding and monitoring work on shortwave. Instead, it plans to do this work in the future "through remote control direction finders interconnected with (the FCC's Compliance and Information Bureau's) Laurel (Maryland) headquarters." The CIB is a new name for the Field Office Bureau under a recent FCC reorganization.

Broadcast Engineering reports that the plans are a cost saving move in compliance with Vice President Al Gore's "reinventing government" program. FCC field offices will remain open for the most part, although the Miami, Buffalo, and Baltimore offices are being closed or consolidated. All of this is still a proposal, pending approval later in 1995 by FCC Commissioners, which is expected.

Obviously this situation could have an impact on the operations of unlicensed clandestine and pirate transmitters from within the USA. Don Bishop says that, "This change will increase the distance required for other FCC employees to travel to the site of field work that might have been closer to the monitoring stations. Apparently there will be fewer overall employees at the remaining field offices, increasing the time required to respond to requests for field work, and perhaps leading to more selective assignments." We certainly will keep our eyes on this situation as it develops.

TV MARTI EXPANDING TRANSMISSIONS

The federal budget cutting fever does not yet seem to have hit TV Marti. According to a UPI report noted by Ben Kropf in Hans Johnson's *Jihad DX* via Ullis Fleming, "US authorities have given TV Marti the permission to operate on three UHF frequencies in addition to the VHF channel that it already uses. USIA intends to randomly switch its signal among channels 18, 50, and 64 to counteract the (Cuban) jamming."

BOUGAINVILLE REPORTEDLY STILL ACTIVE

Last month we discussed the coconut oil generator fuel situation at Radio Free Bougainville. According to BBCMS, this station is allegedly still active on 3850 kHz around 0950-1030 UTC. The original report that led to this citation ran in the May issue of ODXA's *DX Ontario*. Supposedly, the Papua New Guinea government still operates a jammer and black clandestine called Radio United Bougainville at the same time and frequency. Has anybody heard either one of these lately?

CID STILL JAMMED

Longtime ACE member Vince Havrilko checks in from Florida, where he reports that he has settled in for a three year military assignment. Vince is still organizing his new QTH, but he reports that the clandestine broadcasts of La Voz del CID on 9941.7v kHz are jammed quite effectively in the extreme southeastern USA. Of course, we can hear the Cuban jamming elsewhere in the country, but it is no surprise that Vince would pick it up much more loudly in Florida. Thus, the jamming could be fairly effective within Cuba itself.

PROPMAN PROPAGATION SOFTWARE

I don't have any permanent long range plans to turn this column into a propagation forum, but I have received quite a few comments about my findings on propagation from the DX Edge 2 computer software a couple of months ago. Several of you said that you appreciated the discussion, particularly

in the context of the bottom of the sunspot cycle that we currently are experiencing. Dick Pistek of NAPRS wrote a follow-up article in the June issue of *The ACE*. This month we have additional material. While I was in attendance at the Dayton Hamvention a couple of months ago, I spotted a display of the new PropMan propagation software at the Rockwell Collins booth. Yes, this is the Collins company that is legendary in the DX hobby for their R-390A receiver and their excellent mechanical bandwidth filters. They now are marketing a PC version of the IONCAP propagation software that was originally developed by the United States Department of Commerce.

In his 1992 Grove Enterprises book, *Propagation Programs: A Review of Current Forecasting Software*, Jacques D'Avignon discussed the IONCAP software. Jacques pointed out that this software was developed by the government for mainframe computer propagation forecast applications. On page 36 of his book, Jacques says that, "This program is used extensively by many government agencies and broadcasters around the world for propagation forecasting." Although the program is extremely sophisticated, Jacques complained that it was not very user friendly for the home PC user. A lengthy input file had to be entered manually by the user, and the output of the analysis did not generate any graphs. He also noted that the calculations took a very long time to complete on a PC. His estimates were 45-90 minutes for a PC with a floating point math coprocessor, and 4 hours for a machine without one!

Three years have gone by since then, and there has been considerable progress. Collins now sells a version of IONCAP that is considerably more user friendly, and with a price reduction from \$150 to \$50! The software has a wide range of capabilities; there are so many that I can only discuss the major ones here. The main purpose of the program is to analyze a propagation path on a 24 hour basis between any two points in the world. The software comes standard with a large database containing geographic coordinates for hundreds of sites in countries all over the world, including numerous US cities and military bases. You can add any other sites that you wish, as long as you have the geographic coordinates of the QTH. The program will analyze propagation conditions by frequency on a 24 hour basis, showing the maximum usable frequency, minimum usable frequency, best frequency, and expected signal strengths on various frequencies for all hours of the day. This is quite an ambitious agenda, but the software does an extremely good job of this.

In addition to the location of the transmitter and the receiver, several other variables can be changed. These include the low and high frequency limits of the analysis, the power of the transmitter, isotropic antenna gain at both the transmitter and receiver sites, the elevation of the transmitting antenna above the terrain, the takeoff angle of the signal from the transmitting antenna, the sunspot number, whether the signal is analog voice or digital, the date and year, etc. The user can input any 22 frequencies for analysis, and the program prints out a bar graph of expected signal strengths at any time defined by the user on all of these frequencies. Five different files of frequencies can be kept in memory. Two come already loaded, one with ham band frequencies and the other with even numbered MHz frequencies going up from 2 to 40. These defaults can be kept or erased. I naturally loaded a third file with typical pirate frequencies from 27 MHz all the way down to longwave.

The main output of the program is a 24 hour plot of Maximum and Minimum Usable Frequencies on the propagation path. Actually four MUFs and LUFs are produced, given expected signal strengths exceeding 35, 45, 55, and 65 dB-Hz. In addition, the best frequency is suggested for each hour of the day, with the expected signal strength printed for this best frequency. The propagation mode (F2, F1, etc.) and the number of hops on this path are also printed.

The neatest feature of PropMan is that all of the information in the previous paragraph is printed in a multi-color graph of frequency by time. Various shades of green show the expected signal strengths on all frequencies. Any frequencies that are not shaded in green will presumably not propagate at that time. This is a very effective visual aid that solves the former graph-free problem that D'Avignon criticized in the old IONCAP program. Various other graphics can be generated, including the aforementioned bar graph of signal strength on 22 different frequencies, a list of all the parameter settings, the distance between the transmitter and receiver in kilometers (including the time of sunrise and sunset at the midpoint of the path), and settings for various "sensors" connected to the software.

That's right, you can connect the software to outside measurement sources for the latest current propagation conditions. Three different ones can be input. One is the Space Environmental Services Center satellite sensor, which "provides real-time minute-by-minute solar and ionospheric measurements from which solar xray flares, polar cap absorption, and ionospheric storms can be detected." A satellite receiver and dish are available to pick up these measurements at a cost of \$2,000. The SESC also has a computer bulletin board at (303) 497-5000 that provides these measurements. Or, the user can input the AGC signal strength reading from a shortwave receiver into the software. The measurements from these sensors can change the current propagation forecast. If you don't have any of these gizmos, the program creates forecasts under normal propagation conditions, which Collins suggests are in place more than 95% of the time.

Obviously, PropMan is no toy. I have been running it for various paths around the world to Cleveland, and it seems to be reasonably accurate overall. It certainly is an extremely useful educational tool. It confirms the suggestions that I had in the April column about the relationship between the pirate bands and the maximum usable frequency during the winter months of low sunspot conditions. It does find, however, that both 41 and 43 meters will stay open east of the Mississippi until at least 0200 and maybe 0300 on many summer nights.

By now you may have some interest in acquiring this software. Be advised that its hardware requirements are at least a 286 processor (486DX or higher recommended), 2 MB hard disk space, 490 KB Conventional Memory, a color EGA or VGA monitor, and DOS 3.2 or higher. These are minimum requirements. I have run the software on a 33 MHz 486SX computer with no math coprocessor, and on a 66 MHz 486DX with a math coprocessor. On the SX, an analysis took about 24 minutes. On the DX, an analysis takes about 90 seconds. Obviously a fast computer with floating point math is definitely recommended with this software.

Collins sells PropMan for \$49 and change plus \$2 shipping, plus the sales tax if you live in Iowa. The phone number for orders (credit cards accepted) in the USA is (800) 321-2223. Elsewhere in the world the number is (319) 395-5100. The address to write for more information (or to place an order) is Rockwell International Corporation, Collins Avionics and Communications Division, PropMan, Department 120-130, 350 Collins Road NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52498. I highly recommend this software, which does an amazing number of things at a relatively low cost. If you're doing any propagation analysis, the program will be extremely valuable. And yes, on a first come first served basis, if you'd like me to run a path from either your transmitter or your receiver to another transmitter or receiver, let me know. Persons wishing to maintain confidentiality can of course contact me via the usual pirate maildrops.

ROB KEENEY

As was noted last month in *The ACE*, Rob Keeney has resigned his position as our Publisher. Obviously Rob has been finding that the demands on his time sometimes make it difficult to do the work necessary to publish the bulletin every month. But, we all owe a GREAT BIG round of thanks to Rob for his hard work over the years. Plus, Rob was a fine active DXer even as he was donating his time to us in ACE. The publication job is extremely important to our club, and Rob has devoted many hours each month to this vital task. Like all of us, this was done on a completely voluntary basis. So, why not drop a note or a BBS message to Rob, so that we can all express our appreciation to him. Thanks, Rob!

THANKS!

This month we thank the following DXers who submitted material direct to the column: Alan Masyga (Minnesota), Anita McCormack (West Virginia), Gigi Lytle (Texas), Don Bishop (Kansas), Uliis Fleming (Maryland), Vince Havrilko (Florida), and George Zeller (Ohio). Next month we all hope to hear from YOU by July 22 for the August Clandestine Profile.

Free Radio Forum by John Cruzan

As I had feared, this month's deadline sneaked up on me before I knew it. And due to some personal events and a lot of procrastination, I had not even started on this column. However when your as lazy as I am, you can always count on your friends to make sure you stay that way. This month Kirk Trummel submitted a wealth of information for the column, and I really didn't have to write anything other than this introduction. I thank Kirk and everyone else who contributed, I hope you all will help me remain lazy and send in your thoughts and contributions. Before we get started I have a few announcements:

Pirate Radio Insanity Posters!

I received from an individual who wishes to remain silent, a large quantity of 1995 Pirate Radio Insanity Posters, they are a collage of QSLs from the participants on a unique colored paper with lightning bolts in the background. These are not QSLs and I was directed to distribute them to who ever wanted them. If you are interested in having one of these posters, send me a SASE and I'll be glad to get one out to you. My address is 3111 Martin Drive, Joplin Missouri 64804. I wonder if we will ever see the Short Wave Liberation posters??

I just received the following announcement from Dr. Lobotomy; "EAST COAST MUSIC RADIO: Formerly WARI / KMRZ, We have dropped all SSB operations and acquired several new AM transmitters that are being modified. We will be on the air very shortly. We operate from a secret location high on a hill somewhere east of the Mississippi. We will be featuring new music and political commentary. We will mostly be a "Hobby" station though, bringing new pirate news and information to the masses (Well almost) We have two AM transmitters, one with 100 watts of power and the other with 65, we have a very effective antenna system."

Lets all wish Dr. Lobotomy the best of luck with his new project.
And now on with the rest of the show..... 73 John

- DXing from the Fringe - By Kirk Trummel

Not hearing many Pirates even when others are? I am presenting a few "Tips and Tricks" to help you ferret-out those weak Pirate signals. To start off, buy the best receiver you can afford! You'll hear a few stations using a Rat Shack or Sangean or other "Portable" class receiver but If you want to catch the Bass ya gotta get the Bass Boat, Fish Finder, Tackle and Good Poles. The same holds true in DXing of any sort.

If you don't have the \$\$\$ for better ears, there are other ways to improve your DXing set-up. Use an External Antenna. Almost ANY external antenna will work better than the built-in whip. Random wires AND a tuner are great to start with and if you have the space, build yourself a dipole antenna cut for the frequency range of interest for even better results. It helps to have several different antennas to use because in one situation antenna "A" could be the star performer and another night/station antenna "B" could take the prize. A good pair of headphones is another worthwhile addition to the shack, especially when you're really trying to dig that weak one out.

Become familiar with the "Normal" stations that are SUPPOSED to be there. That way, when you tune across a signal, you won't waste time DXing something that is of no interest. This technique also makes spotting pirates easier because your possible catch is something that is NOT normally there. Watch the loggings section for good times/days/freqs that pirates have used. If you maximize your efforts using this data you'll catch more stations than just plain random tuning. It also helps to tune thru the bands about every 15 minutes or so. That way you'll catch more stations signing on/fading in at odd times.

Make a few friends! Fellow DXers help Fellow DXers! I owe many loggings of stations that I would have missed, due someone else catching them first. Also remember to re-pay the favors as well! When tuning thru the bands, turn your BFO ON or use the SSB position, not only does this increase the sensitivity of your receiver, but it makes the carriers of the AM stations stick out like a sore thumb. Another technique I use when I can't really spend a lot of time tuning, is to find a popular frequency and just "Park" your receiver there, open up the filters on your receiver as wide as they go and turn up

the volume a bit. That way, you can do other things and still DX a little bit. I hope this stuff helps
Good Luck and Good Fishin'!

Frequencies of operation: By Kirk Trummel

With all the latest discussion of MUF/LUF/Sun Spots and other scientific topics, Operators might want to put the anticipated lousy 43/41 Meter propagation season to good use by experimenting elsewhere in the vast RF Spectrum. While the following bands are by no means advocated as the ones to start carving your own niche in, they are presented only for informational and I dare say, entertainment purposes only.

160-190 kHz - NOT a typo guys! This band has been around for a very long time and it is LEGAL to run 1 watt into any sort of antenna you can dream up as long as you also include the feed line to NOT exceed 50 feet in length. ALL modes are allowed, SSB, AM, RTTY, SSTV etc. and some rather astounding DX records have been set by guys known as LOWFERS who typically run automated Beacon Stations here. One will not get the distance like Shortwave BUT it is a very interesting band to play with, especially if you have several friends who live within a 100 miles or so of the transmitter. The summer static levels will be horrendous here but by the time you build/buy a transmitter and set up a decent antenna, Fall will be just around the corner!

1600-1800 kHz - the bottom 50 or so kHz of this range has been used for pirate broadcasts for as long as there have been pirates! With the new expanded AM BCB taking over this segment, one should find existing users slowly being moved elsewhere to make room for this band's new occupants. If you have ever contemplated using this range, NOW is the time to think about it before it fills up with Wall-to-Wall BCB stations. The only sore spots about this band are the very long antennas required for good efficiency, many Amateur class transmitters don't have the capability to operate this low and if you operate in the 1750-1800 kHz range beware of two things, MARS type operations (Just outside the Ham 160M band) and possible 2nd Harmonics that will show up in the 80M ham band (And a VERY good way to get noticed by the wrong people!). Again, Summer static levels will be tough to bear but that's life.....

2400-2500 kHz - I am not sure if there has ever been any activity in this range before. While it is certainly out of the range of most Ham Xmitters (Barring of course - Modifications) it looks interesting because of the little use by SWBC around the world allowing for many "Clear Spots" to be identified. While I have not monitored much of this range, it is at least worthy of a little "Investigative DXing". Again, Summer static and very long antennas are the downside.

3390-3410 kHz - Several broadcasts were done here last year by several stations and results seemed to be promising. However, due to the "Lack of Activity, Lack of Listeners" cycle, usage stopped. This range is a bit tricky to navigate because of the complex situation provided by SWBC, Utility and Aeronautical services merging here. Go any higher and you are playing with fire from the Aeronautical/MARS operations and lower one starts hitting SWBC and Utility services. One advantage this range does hold are the large numbers of SWLs who tune this range allowing a Pirate Operator to hit a potential audience that one doesn't get with 43/41 Meters. Efficient antennas are twice as long here as opposed to 43/41 meters as well BUT local and distant coverage are BOTH possible given quiet band conditions and a decent antenna. A downside is that again, most ham xmitters won't cover this range without some serious returning and/or modifications.

5800-5900 kHz - This range saw activity as well last year by several stations and again, results seemed to be promising. Global propagation is possible given good conditions and a good radiator. But as with the previous range there is a complex mix of SWBC, Utility and SPY# stations all merging here. As with any "Uncharted Waters", a little "Investigative DXing" should turn-up several "Clear Spots". While antennas are a bit more manageable for portable operations, this is a range that is out of range of the older ham transmitters. Summer static will be the most tolerable here of all the bands discussed.

With all of these bands, They are Night Time bands which means for anything but local reception, one must wait for the grey line or darkness to get the best DX performance from these bands. The only thing I can add is, I hope we don't lose ALL of the West Coast listeners this season!

PC Production: By Kirk Trummel

Very little info has appeared in the ACE recently concerning show production techniques and tips, so I thought it would be good to take a bit of space here to talk about some very affordable production tools available. There has been a push in the PC market for what is known as multimedia basically consisting of a Sound Card, CD ROM Drive and SVGA Graphics. These 3 elements combined on a 386 or better PC can do amazing things! What we are concerned with in this hobby are the Sound capabilities and advantages of using a PC based CD ROM drive in the production of Radio programming. In this first of hopefully many articles on this subject, I'll just go over the basics of what's required and what to look for/avoid. THE COMPUTER - Now days a 386 based machine with 4 MB of RAM, 40 MB Hard drive and a 3.5" High Density floppy drive is the BARE BONES BASIC SYSTEM MINIMUM it takes to get into PC Based audio production.

VGA or better graphics capability is almost required as well due to the demands of some of the software packages for playing with sound. Anything less, and you are going to spend a lot of time waiting for the software, not enough storage space or memory to do what you want, etc. Most of the software written now days and especially in the future will start requiring machines even more powerful than the 386. With prices falling all the time, 486 based machines are looking very attractive and especially if you can find an assembled system that will probably come with everything you need to get started.

THE SOUND CARD - These plug-in expansion boards come in a wide variety of capabilities and are manufactured by a wide variety of sources. My first, best advice to a potential buyer of a sound card is to stick with the "Popular" cards and buy the best one you can afford. With sound cards you get what you pay for. The reason for sticking with well-known cards is that they are the ones that will be supported by a wide variety of 3rd party software manufacturers. This gives you a much wider range of software you able to use if you don't like the software that came with the card. The next thing to look for is the "resolution" of the card be it 8 or 16 bit. 8 bit cards are less expensive than 16 bit cards BUT 16 bit cards are able to digitize more accurately and just sound better than their older 8 bit cousins. Don't sweat it if all you can start out with is an 8 bit board, after your transmitter and SW propagation does it's damage to your audio, the difference in quality will hardly be noticeable to the guy on the other end. Midi support is becoming a standard feature in cards now days and it's a nice feature to have. There are a lot of MIDI files out there and can be used on cards that support MIDI without the need of any other external MIDI devices. The current "Top Dog" cards use what is called DSP or Digital Signal Processing and they are basically very-fast, real-time A to D or D to A converters. These boards run circles around the older 8 & 16 bit cards but they are also kind of expensive. Other features to look for in your sound card are CD ROM interface (Handy if your tight for expansion slots in your PC), Line In and Outs, Speaker Out, Mic In, etc. How difficult is it to install a Sound card in your PC, very easy. Just put the card in a 8 Bit or 16 Bit expansion slot, and run the installation disk that came with the card. On MOST systems, the default settings work most of the time. Unless you have some extra or non-standard hardware, installation is a snap!

THE CD ROM DRIVE - CD ROM technology is growing by leaps and bounds and is becoming almost a standard format for software distribution. Prices are very low on the drives and the CD's are even cheaper. How's paying \$10 for 600MB of software sound? Almost ALL of the CD ROM drives manufactured for PC's also have the capability to play standard audio CD's in addition to reading DATA CD's. What you need to look for is the access time of the drive. Currently there are three speeds, Single Spin (Slowest), Double Spin (Medium) and Triple Spin (Blazing!) of course the faster you go, the more they cost. Single spin drives are falling out of use because they are not able to deliver the data fast enough for TRUE Multimedia applications. Also the price difference between a single spin and double spin CD drive is not that much, so spend a little extra \$ and you'll be glad. Since CD ROM drives typically come with their own interface cards (plugs into your expansion slots) and software drivers, sticking with a name-brand isn't all that terribly important. The only down-side is that you'll need an open 5 1/4" HH drive bay to install your CD ROM drive into. My PC only had one 5 1/4 bay so I had to take out my 5 1/4 floppy drive and replace it with the CD ROM drive. No big deal as 5 1/4 disks and drives are seeing less and less use now days. Once the hardware is installed in your system (A bit more complex than adding a sound card) and the installation software is run, your CD ROM drive will act just like another Floppy or Hard drive making their use VERY EASY. Special software is required for playing Audio CD but that comes with the drive and there are A LOT of PD Players around. The next time, I'll talk about software and what one can do with this amazing stuff. Till next time!

ASSOCIATION OF CLANDESTINE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS
P. O. Box 11201, Shawnee Mission, KS 66207-0201

The A*C*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A*C*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A*C*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

President Kirk Baxter, POB 11201, Shawnee Mission, KS. 66207
Publisher Yolanda Lewis, Scott Gentry

Our Editors...

Varied Response John Arthur, RD #1, Box 15A, Belfast, NY 14711
Dialogs Nick Grace, 2116 Florida Ave, NW, Washington DC 20008
Clandestine Profile George Zeller, 3492 W. 123rd St., Cleveland, OH. 44111

Feature Editors....

Features.... Harry Helms, Micro-casting.... Bud Stace, DX Clip Board... Andrew Yoder,
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